

Kay Morrison/R10/USEPA/US

03/01/2012 05:01 PM

To Scott Downey, David Powers, Chad Schulze

cc Sheila Fleming, Elizabeth Allen, Wenona Wilson

bcc

Subject Fw: Regarding chemical trespass in Traingle Lake, Oregon and everywhere

Please see below my response to Mr. (b) (6)'s questions. Earlier I sent a less formal sounding email to him introducing myself, and explaining that I'd be answering the questions that we hadn't be able to answer sooner.

Do we need to forward this to anyone else?

Let me know if you have additional discussions with the study participants (or anyone) that you'd like me to coordinate into a separate document for OHA's website.

k

Kay Morrison
Community Involvement Coordinator
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead

----- Forwarded by Kay Morrison/R10/USEPA/US on 03/01/2012 04:56 PM -----

From: Kay Morrison/R10/USEPA/US
To: (b) (6)
Date: 03/01/2012 04:55 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Regarding chemical trespass in Traingle Lake, Oregon and everywhere

Dear Mr (b) (6)

Thank you for your patience - our resources are limited and there has been a tremendous amount of interest from the study participants - I'm sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you with answers to your questions.

First of all, let me explain that EPA writes and enforces regulations based on Laws and Acts created by the US Congress. We value public participation, we encourage people to be informed and to participate at every level of this decision making process.

In response to your question about the precautionary principle, EPA does not use the precautionary principle, instead we use a risk assessment approach. We've funded at least one study on implementing the precautionary principle, but to date I have not heard that the agency intends to change our policies.

In response to your question about chemical trespass, to my knowledge it is not directly addressed in any of the laws EPA enforces. EPA has primary responsibility for registering pesticides and "product" compliance (production, sales, marketing, import/export) while states usually have primary authority over the "use" of pesticides. These responsibilities are established by law.

Finally, EPA's goal is an informed public. Below are links to a wide range of information that you may find useful:

Our Pesticides website includes information on ways the agency is working to regulate and reduce exposure to pesticides:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>

Here is additional information on public involvement in pesticide regulatory actions:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/registration-public-involvement.html>

Here are some of the laws covering pesticides that form EPA's regulations:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/laws.htm>

Here is some information about EPA's responsibility for pesticides:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/index.htm>

Here is a link to EPA's environmental justice work:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej/index.html>

You can search EPA's "frequent questions" database:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/faq.htm>

Or you can ask a question of the EPA librarians:

<http://publicaccess.supportportal.com/ics/support/ticketnewwizard.asp?style=classic>

And you may already know that the Oregon Health Authority maintains a website for the Triangle Lake / Hwy 36 Pesticide Study:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/TrackingAssessment/EnvironmentalHealthAssessment/Pages/Highway36TriangleLakeExposureInvestigation.aspx>

I hope this information is of use to you.

Sincerely,

Kay Morrison

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